

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 191600Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6947

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA REMAINS FAVORITE SUBJECT FOR MOSCOW PRESS

REF: MOSCOW 13561

1. SUMMARY. ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS RETAIN A HIGH PRIORITY IN THE SOVIET PRESS WHICH CONTINUES TO HIT AT THE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT BY OUTSIDE FORCES SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA, ZAIRE, FORMER PORTUGUESE "FASCISTS", AS WELL AS "AMERICAN MERCENARIES". SOME STORIES ADMIT THAT THE MILITARY SITUATION REMAINS "COMPLICATED," AND THE CLEAR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE MPLA'S MILITARY PROSPECTS ARE NOT BRIGHT--AT LEAST AT THE MOMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF ANGOLA REMAINS EXTREMELY HEAVY. PRAVDA'S LEAD ARTICLE (NOV 19) STATES THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"MILITARY SITUATION REMAINS COMPLICATED," AND SINGLES

OUT THE "CENTRAL AND NORTHERN" FRONTS WHERE CONDITIONS ARE "TENSE". ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, UNITS OF WHITE MERCENARIES, CONSISTING OF "CADRES OF OFFICERS, SERGEANTS, AND SOLDIERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY," ALONG WITH FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIAL TROOPS, ARE MAKING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO "BREAK THROUGH" TO THE CAPITAL. PRAVDA ALSO CLAIMS THAT UNITS OF REGULAR ZAIRIAN FORCES ARE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE FNLA AND UNITA. PRAVDA ADDS THAT A MAJOR EFFORT IS BEING MADE BY THE OPPOSITION FORCES "TO BYPASS THE CAPITAL TO THE EAST." IN THIS "DANGEROUS SITUATION" THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES, THE "NEW GOVERNMENT" IS MOBILIZING A PEOPLE'S ARMY "AND DOING EVERYTHING TO ORGANIZE THE EXPULSION OF THE ENEMIES."

3. PRAVDA ALSO REPLAYS AND ALLEGED REPORT BY "OBSERVER" CORRESPONDENT TONY HODGES IN WHICH HE CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS OPERATING IN ANGOLA. ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, HODGES ALSO REPORTED THAT "AMERICAN MERCENARIES"--"FORMER VETERANS OF VIETNAM"--WERE ALSO IN ANGOLA SERVING THE FNLA/UNITA. A LARGE PART OF THIS OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE (FOR USE "AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA"), PRAVDA CLAIMS, IS BEING FUNNELED THROUGH ZAIRE AND DELIVERED VIA UNMARKED TRANSPORT PLANES.

4. IZVESTIYA (NOV18) ALSO REPLAYS SEVERAL BRITISH REPORTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN AND PORTUGUESE SUPPORT FOR THE FNLA/UNITA. IZVESTIYA, HOWEVER, SNEERS AT "BOURGEOIS PROPAGANDA" WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN REPORTING MILITARY SUCCESSES OF THE ROBERTO/SAVIMBI ORGANIZATIONS (WHICH HAVE BEEN TRYING "TO UNDERMINE THE POSITION OF THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT").

5. COMMENT: THE STEADY STREAM OF IVECTIVE AGAINST ALLEGED SOUTH AFRICAN, PORTUGUESE, AND ZAIRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA HAS NOW BECOME A FLOOD AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR SOVIETS TO CLIMB BACK OFF THE LIMB ON THIS IF THE MPLA DOES INDEED SUFFER SERIOUS REVERSES. THE CHARGE THAT US VIETNAM VETS ARE OPERATING IN ANGOLA IS NOT NEW (REFTEL), BUT IT HAS NOT BEEN SEEN FOR SOME TIME. IT IS NOTEWORTHY IN THIS REGARD THAT THIS CHARGE WAS PUT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MOUTH OF BRITISH JOURNALIST AND NOT MADE DIRECTLY BY SOVIET COMMENTATOR.  
MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, MERCENARIES, ALLEGATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchantr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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